



Research Economist

1. Introduction

Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a United States government-owned corporation responsible for the stewardship of the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). MCC works with developing countries to promote sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty. One of MCC's guiding principles is a focus on measurable results. Prior to signing a compact, MCC asks its country counterparts to prepare a Constraints Analysis (CA), which assesses the local constraints to economic growth and identifies which of them are most binding.¹ Once projects have been proposed, MCC conducts cost-benefit analysis to assess the projects' likely economic impact and cost-effectiveness. MCC also analyzes the likely poverty and distributional impacts of proposed projects as part of a beneficiary analysis. During and after the compact is implemented, MCC conducts rigorous impact evaluations that seek to quantify the projects' actual impact on poverty. MCC strives for transparency in all of its programs and posts many of these analyses on the agency's public website.

2. Scope

MCC seeks a Research Economist to work with a Senior Economist to review the seven CAs that have been produced for Compact-eligible countries to date.

3. Tasks

The external review team will evaluate and provide recommendations pertaining to the following:

- The quality of the technical analysis reflected in each CA, including an assessment of whether it addressed the appropriate questions, used the appropriate data and analytical methods, and referenced appropriate comparison countries.
- The extent to which the findings articulated in the final report were consistent with the technical analysis.
- The quality of the technical guidance provided by MCC to country counterparts conducting the CA.
- The extent to which the local analysts followed MCC's CA guidance and best practice for Growth Diagnostics and the link between compliance in process was related to quality of the reports.
- The applicability of the constraints analysis exercise and process, both as currently conducted by MCAs with MCC guidance and if conducted better or differently, for

¹ MCC's CA practice builds on the growing "growth diagnostics" literature, particularly "Growth Diagnostics" (2005) by Ricardo Hausmann, Dani Rodrik and Andrés Velasco.

helping to identify sectors and specific projects, programs, or policies amenable to MCC funding.

4. Evaluation Criteria

MCC intends for the Senior Economist and Research Economist to undertake the above-referenced review together, working as a team even if located in separate locations (e.g., by using email, videoconferencing or other communication tools). The CA review team is expected to be self-motivated, but also be responsive to guidance from MCC economists.

This Ad is for the Research Economist

- Minimum undergraduate degree with major in economics, business or other related field; graduate coursework in economics highly desired, specifically related to Growth Diagnostics methods
- Demonstrated interest in international development issues
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Excel, including macro programming capabilities
- Knowledge of Stata, particularly survey analysis tools
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including document editing and layout design

The period of performance for the resultant contract shall be 2 months; with an expected level of effort of 3 weeks. This position is NOT limited to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents with 5 years residency history.

5. How to Apply

Interested parties should submit by email to recruitment@mcc.gov the following package: 1) Curriculum Vitae, 2) a brief cover letter that addresses the desired qualifications and provides three professional or academic references, and 3) brief salary history and fully loaded hourly salary rate requirement including fringe benefits. Please include "Constraints Analysis Research Economist" in the subject line of your email. Successful candidates will be required to register with an MCC agent for administration of the resultant contract. First cut off for applications is March 24, 2010, however the announcement is open continuously until the position is filled.